

THURSDAY, JULY 16, 1869.

is highly improbable, excepting on a very contracted scale. There are probably other departments which will admit of considerable abatement without touching the interests of particular individuals. The whole question, however, is beset with so many practical difficulties that any honest effort will receive and

deserve support from all who are only interested in the general prosperity of the country. We

deserve support from all who are only interested in the general prosperity of the country. We have gone wrong so long, and have contracted liabilities so large, that we must make some clear and effective provision

for discharging our debts and meeting our current liabilities. The first duty of any Government is to be assured of its finances; and nothing could be more important at the

nothing could be more improvident, not to say dishonest, than to anticipate the proceeds of future years, and to throw upon other men and other times embarrassments which might be avoided by reasonable forethought and

HAPPILY we are not so independent of our neighbours that we can afford to dispense with a knowledge of their affairs. These

colonies are daily being brought nearer together, and learning their true interdependence. Each improvement introduced into the mode of communication establishes the fact of their relationship, and that the

that federation which is thought to be their ultimate necessity. It is, therefore, natural that the yearly statements of affairs, comprehending the commercial and agricultural statistics of

The farming enterprise of South Australia has had a very decided effect upon ourselves, and it becomes a matter of importance to gauge the progress or retrogression made.

year by year, in the cultivation of specific crops, in order that, in some respects, we should slacken our efforts to produce crops which they are better able to grow than ourselves whenever the market is available.

Mr. BOOTHBY has been happy, as usual, in the collection and exhibition of facts respecting the soil-produce of South Australia.

There appear to be in the hands and actual occupation of freeholders 2,268,712 acres of land, which indicates such a state of things as most political economists, or at all events those of Mr. MILL's school, would consider

Fortunate for the colony. Of the 23,441,200 acres within the boundaries of the twenty-three counties, 3,765,501 acres, up to December, 1868, were purchased. Under cultivation there appear, in these tables, to be

807,049 acres. This shows a decrease of 2500 acres on the previous year, due in some measure to the disappointment caused by the attacks of parasitic fungi. The actual decrease in the

the area under wheat is shown in the difference between 550,456 acres in 1867-8, and 533,035 acres in 1868-9. Notwithstanding a decrease in the extent of land sown, which was to be

expected, we are glad to note a great increase over the miserable returns of the rural year, when the farmers' toil was rewarded with but four bushels forty pounds of wheat to the acre. The average yield of the last har-

vest turns out to be nine bushels forty-two pounds. This would afford enough for the re-seeding of the same area, and, adopting Mr. CAIRD's estimate of individual consumption of bread for the wants of a community number-

bread, for the wants of a community numbering about 700,000 souls; so that in wheat alone South Australia may be said to have surplus for 500,000 consumers after supplying her own bread-basket.

While this result looks encouraging as compared with the yield of 1867-8, it is not one on which the colony is much to be congratulated. The return of eight, nine, or even ten bushels an acre must be regarded a

miserable result, and far below what efficient husbandry is capable of producing on land that grows the best wheat in the world. But for the presence amongst them of men who really understand their business.

ard farm to good purpose, the wheat average of the farmers of South Australia would be far below what it is. The exceptional instances of good farming give a better rest to the imagination than the

better cast to the grain-growing districts than some of them deserve, and detract from the credit of those which stand first for good husbandry. Considering the cost and risk of growing wheat, the return must, in the

majority of instances, be far below the outlay. Ten bushels of wheat, at five shillings a bushel, yields a cash return of two pounds ten shillings to repay the farmer's advances for seed, rent, labour, and afford a profit on the trans-

neglect. It is clear that, if all were as negligent as some, the wheat crop would cost the colony a considerable sum of money every year beyond the return, for if every acre was confined to the average named as

There were winners, but a great many are losers ; and, although it does not appear, it is in effect the fact, that the wheat crop,

owing to bad management, is debtor to the colony, but not quite to the extent just indicated, because of the better farming of some, the better state of their land, and the greater amount of money spent by them in

It may be said that nine or ten bushels is not a general yield. True; but let us bear in mind that the average of six years, from 1860 to 1866 inclusive, gives only 11 bushels

16 lbs., and that the highest yield has only reached 14 bushels 30 lbs., which was in 1866. Supposing that this yield gave the farmer a return of £3 15s. per acre, after the expenses

are deducted, there does not appear to be very much left by way of profit. It is clear that although some may be gainers, a far greater number lose by growing wheat; and if they lose by other crops as they do by wheat, there

Facts like these show how much necessity there is in South Australia for the stimulative

There is in South Australia for the immediate cooperation of agricultural societies. It is evident that the land is in the hands of men who do not know how to use it—of men who have to be taught the meaning of the well-

known proverb about the liberal hand making rich, in relation to generous management. The inorganic matter as it is, there is no creature which moves upon its surface more appreciative of, or respondent to, kindness than

he land. If the South Australian farmers—or, for that matter, if farmers of these colonies generally—really understood this, they might perceive the possibility of getting a better profit out of wheat sold at from 3s. to 4s.

bushel than from wheat sold at 5s. or 6s. a bushel. The outlay of a few shillings per acre in restorative fertilisers, judiciously selected and applied, will often make a difference of ten or twenty shillings per acre in the receipts.

year or six months per acre in the receipts from the crop. This is a truth so well established by long experience, that we are almost inclined to apologise for mentioning

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taken for her appearance, Mr. Stuart and Mr. Beck, the poundkeeper, entering into the required recognizance. The names of other men who were to those who attended the Yass sessions some few years ago.

BOGGED DRAYS.—When drays are bugged (remarks the *Merchandise Chronicle*), instead of unloading their cargoes properly, as being loaded, they are so called to get them out. The plan would not be so objectionable if they would stop to again the pitfalls into which the loaded earth would at any rate, if they were to light matters safely across, whilst left open the holes are very liable to occasion trouble. A few weeks ago a dray was bugged did occur from this cause. A hole was thrown out of a buggy, and narrowly escaped being crushed under the wheels. The driver, however, did not stop to look at the following them with loaded drays may avoid them, or, for political reasons, that the roads may appear as they are, and not better than they are, and the driver, the sooner be put under repair. There is something in this, but on the whole the practice has more to be said against it than for it.

THE POLYNESIAN LABOUR QUESTION.—A long correspondence of a rectification character appears in the *British Colonist* and *Advertiser* of Melbourne, in which he attacks the statements of the Hon. Mr. Sutherland that appeared a few months ago in the *Star*. The *Star* has been very much abused for its article on the *British Colonist* states that Sub-Inspector Lloyd has found Halligan's revolver, and a parcel containing 19 ounces of opium, and that Mr. Mitchell had been arrested.

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